Employees in Bilaspur Railway Zone

† 2920. SHRI DILIP SIGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) the number of offices and employees working as on 31st July, 2000, in the newly created Railway-zone under construction at Bilaspur,

(b) the total posts sanctioned for this zone;

(c) the number of posts transferred elsewhere and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of action being taken to accelerate the construction of zone, by increasing the posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) 6 officers and 30 staff are positioned as on 31st July 2000 in the proposed Railway Zone at Bilaspur.

(b) 6 officers and 36 staff were sanctioned for this zone.

(c) No posts have been transfered to other places.

(d) The entire issue of reorganisation of Zones is under review.

Discontinuance of Durg-Waltair Train

2921. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the MINISTER OF RAILWAYS be pleaded to state:

(a) the reasons for discontinuance of the train running between Durg and Waltair for the last 32 years and starting it from Raipur.

(b) whether Government are considering to restart the same from the Durg Junction on the demand of citizens of that area.

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not the reason lor not taking seriously matter regarding withdrawal of facilities, by discontinuing the passenger train from important junction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) 229/230 Durg-Visakhapatnam Passenger was short terminated at Raipur due to operational constraints on Raipur-Durg section and poor patronage. tOriginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) to (d) Running of 229/230 Raipur-Visakhapatnam Passenger has been restored upto Durg with effect from 20-07-2000 due to public demand.

Length of M.G. Rail Lines

2922. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of metre gauge rail line at present in the country;

(b) the names of places in the country where metre gauge lines are existing, giving the State-wise details thereof;

(c) whether Government plan to convert metre gauge lines into broad gauge under a time bound plan;

(d) if so, the State-wise details thereof; and

(e) the total gauge lines converted into broad gauge during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The total length (route kilometres) of metre gauge railway lines in the country at present is 15,178 kms. (latest available figure as on 31.3.1999).

(b) to (e) All the States except Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab arc having Metre Gauge lines. Metre Gauge lines are being converted into Broad Gauge in a phased manner. The stale-wise details of on-going conversion works as well as the projects completed during the last three years are given below:

State-wise details of ongoing gauge conversion works:

Andhra Pradesh

1. Mudkhed-Adilabad (partly in Maharashtra)
2. Secunderabad-Mudkhed with Jankampet-Bodan (partly in Maharashtra)
3. Dharmavaram-Pakala
4. Kaipadi-Pakala-Tirupati
5. Guniur-Guntakal & Guntakal-Kalluru